Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /041 W

-----060057 122116Z/66

R 121409Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2440 INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY ROME

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BRUSSELS FOR FAA

ROME FOR RCAA AND FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, GR
SUBJ: CIVAIR: RENEWED EFFORTS BY AIRBUS INDUSTRIES TO
PENETRATE THE GREEK MARKET

1. AT PRESS CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 9, AIRBUS INDUSTRIES SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT ROBERT BLANCHET STATED THAT OLYMPIC AIRWAYS IS STUDYING PROPOSALS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A-300 AIRBUS AIRCRAFT. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE AIRBUS WOULD BE IDEAL FOR HIGH-DENSITY DOMESTIC ROUTES, SUCH AS ATHENS-THESSALONIKI, AND ATHENS-RHODES, AND ALSO FOR THE ATHENS-LONDON AND ATHENS-ROME RUNS.

2. COMMENT: SENIOR HELLENIC CAA OFFICIAL SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD EMBASSY THAT OLYMPIC MAY WET LEASE, RATHER THAN PURCHASE, A NUMBER OF A-300'S TO REPLACE THE FIVE B-727'S IT OPERATES ON LEASE FROM AIRCRAFT LEASING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMPANY OF PANAMA, WHICH IS CONTROLLED BY ARISTOTLE ONASIS' HEIRS. THE LEASE EXPIRES IN JANUARY 1978.

OLYMPIC WOULD LIKE TO RENEW THE LEASE CONTRACT OR PURCHASE THE B-727'S FROM THEIR OWNERS. SHOULD THE OWNERS' ASKING PRICE BE TOO HIGH, HOWEVER, OLYMPIC WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION (WET LEASE OF A-300'S); THUS WOULD USE THE AIRBUS

INDUSTRIES PROPOSAL AS A LEVER IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE B-727 OWNERS. THE HCAA OFFICIAL REMARKED THAT THE AIRBUS WOULD BE UNPROFITABLE FOR OLYMPIC, EXCEPT FOR THE ROUTES MENTIONED ABOVE. A PROFITABLE ROUTE FOR THE AIRBUS COULD START FROM RHODES, STOP IN ATHENS, CONTINUE TO THESSALONIKI, AND THEN FLY TO LONDON, PARIS, OR ROME. MILLS

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Disposition Event:
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Subject: CIVAIR: RENEWED EFFORTS BY AIRBUS INDUSTRIES TO PENETRATE THE GREEK MARKET

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